The Ford Green Roof – 10 Years and Growing Strong

Don Russell Ford Motor Company, Ret.

Green Roof Maintenance

Varies with type of green roof

Very important in first year

Maintenance needs diminish with roof age

Not a major expense

Green Roof Options

- The Ford roof is an Extensive System
- It has a thin profile and is light weight
- Some systems are Intensive
- They are over six inches in depth and require more building support and maintenance

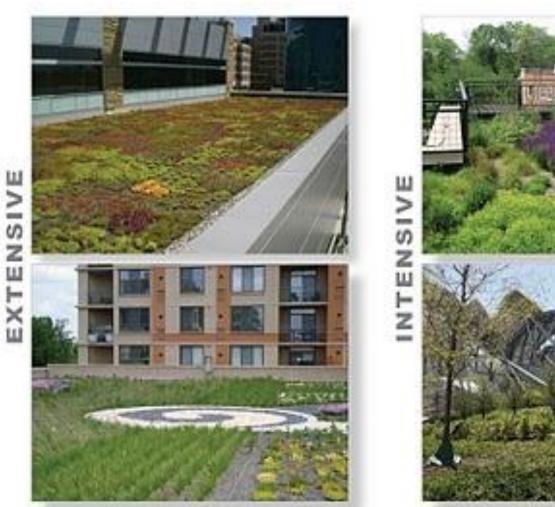
Needs Vary With Roof Type

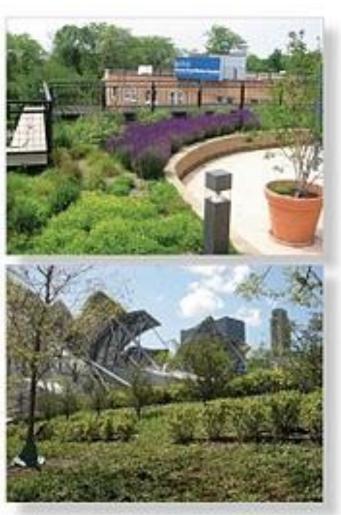
Intensive roofs have the most concerns

• Roofs grown "in place" are subject to weed growth and erosion

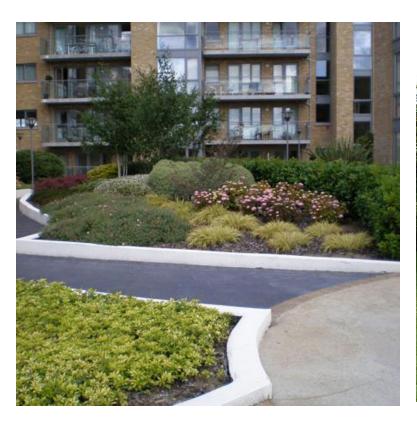
 Extensive roofs are shallow and don't allow weeds to take hold

Green Roof Types





Intensive Roofs





Extensive Roofs





Roofs Planted in Place



Preplanted Roof Mats

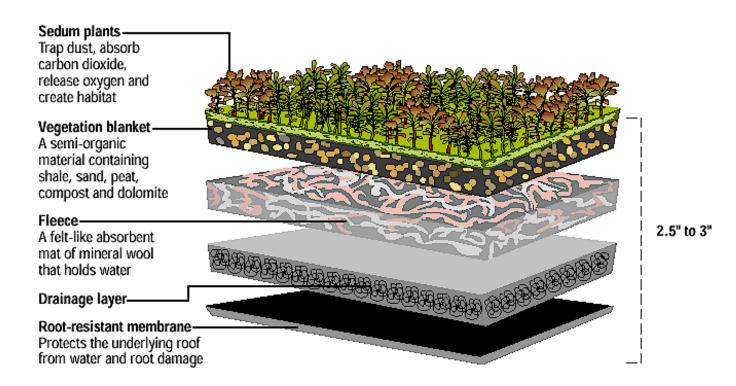


Ford System Components

- Root resistant membrane layer over roof
- Drainage layer of plastic spiral material
- Fleece-like, water absorbent layer
- Substrate layer comprised of shale, sand, compost, peat and dolomite
- Fifteen varieties of sedum plants

Schematic of Ford Green Roof Assembly

FORD ROUGE CENTER LIVING ROOF DESIGN



Ford Roof Maintenance

Irrigation as needed

Annual fertilizer application

Spring weeding and cleanup

No mowing required

Spray Irrigation



Drip Irrigation



Yearly Fertilizer Application





Yearly Spring Weeding





No Mowing Required!



Are Green Roofs Sustainable?

• Green roofs in Europe are over 40 years old

 The Ford green roof is 10 years old and growing strong

• The Ford roof has lasted longer at Ford than a couple of installers...

Final Square Installed



Summary

Green roofs come in several forms

 Maintenance needs vary with the type of roof selected and age

• Irrigation, fertilizing and weeding are the most common maintenance requirements